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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **2004 GREEN BOOK**

**BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND DATA ON THE  
PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**



**March 2004**

**Prepared for the use of the Members of the Committee on Ways and Means by members of its staff. This document has not been officially approved by the Committee and may not reflect the views of its Members.**

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH CONGRESS**

**WILLIAM M. THOMAS, CALIFORNIA, *Chairman***

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**ALLISON H. GILES, *Chief of Staff***

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on Ways and Means and is issued under the authority of Chairman William M. Thomas. This document has not been reviewed or officially approved by the Members of the Committee.

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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House of Representatives,  
Committee on Ways and Means,  
*Washington, DC, March 2004*

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

Since 1981, the Committee on Ways and Means has published the *Green Book*, which presents background material and statistical data on the major entitlement programs and other activities within the Committee's jurisdiction. Information on major social programs outside the Committee's jurisdiction is also included.

The *Green Book* has become a valuable resource for Members of Congress, various legislative agencies, the executive departments, as well as scholars and citizens interested in government social programs. The document was prepared by the Committee staff with assistance from the following organizations, to which the staff extends its sincere thanks: Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress; Congressional Budget Office; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Department of Labor; Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Social Security Administration; Joint Committee on Taxation; and the Railroad Retirement Board Staff.

Many members of the Committee's staff made major contributions to the preparation and publication of this document. In particular, I wish to call your attention to the work of the Subcommittee on Human Resources staff: Matt Weidinger, Staff Director, assisted by Margo Smith and Christine Devere, along with editorial assistance and coordination provided by Risa Salsburg.

On behalf of all those who worked on this, the 18th edition, I am pleased to transmit the *2004 Green Book* to you and other Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Sincerely,

Allison H. Giles,  
*Chief of Staff*

## P R E F A C E

After 17 previous editions, the *Green Book* has become a standard reference source on American social policy. It is widely used by Members of Congress and their staffs, analysts in congressional and administrative agencies, members of the media, scholars, and citizens interested in the Nation's social policy.

This edition of the *Green Book* follows the basic pattern of previous editions. The volume is divided into two parts, Program Descriptions and Appendices. In the Program Description part, separate sections are devoted to the major programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means: Social Security; Medicare; Supplemental Security Income; Unemployment Compensation; Earned Entitlements for Railroad Employees; Trade Adjustment Assistance; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Child Support Enforcement; Child Care; Title XX Social Services Block Grant; Child Protection, Foster Care, and Adoption Assistance; Social Welfare Programs in the Territories; Tax Provisions Related to Retirement, Health, Poverty, Employment, Disability, and Other Social Issues; and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. A final section summarizes major social programs not under the jurisdiction of the Committee (including food stamps, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, Federal housing assistance, School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Workforce Investment Act, Head Start, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, veterans benefits and services, and workers' compensation).

The Appendices include information directly related to the programs under the Committee's jurisdiction, including: health care of the elderly; long-term care expenditures; Medicare reimbursements for hospitals and physicians; the Medicare+Choice Program; data on employment, earnings, and unemployment; data on families and poverty; Federal budget tables; benefits available to noncitizens; spending on income-tested benefits in recent decades; a review of studies of the effects of welfare reform; and information about nonmarital births and Federal strategies to reduce nonmarital pregnancies.

For the first time individual chapters of the *Green Book* have been posted on the Committee's website as they are completed, prior to the publication of the book as a whole. This is designed to speed the availability of data to those who access the *Green Book*, enhancing its utility to policymakers and others.

## CONTENTS

		Page	
Letter of Transmittal		iii	
Preface		iv	
PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS			
		Start	End
Section 1	Social Security: The Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Programs	1-1	1-82
Section 2	Medicare	2-1	2-155
Section 3	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	3-1	3-70
Section 4	Unemployment Compensation	4-1	4-36
Section 5	Earned Entitlements for Railroad Employees	5-1	5-28
Section 6	Trade Adjustment Assistance	6-1	6-16
Section 7	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	7-1	7-98
Section 8	Child Support Enforcement Program	8-1	8-107
Section 9	Child Care	9-1	9-62
Section 10	Title XX – Social Services Block Grant Program	10-1	10-12
Section 11	Child Protection, Foster Care, and Adoption Assistance	11-1	11-140
Section 12	Social Welfare Programs in the Territories	12-1	12-15
Section 13	Tax Provisions Related to Retirement, Health, Poverty, Employment, Disability, and Other Social Issues	13-1	13-75
Section 14	The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	14-1	14-16
Section 15	Other Programs	15-1	15-150
APPENDICES			
Appendix A	Data on the Elderly	A-1	A-14
Appendix B	Health Status and Expenditures of the Elderly, and Background Data on Long-Term Care	B-1	B-47
Appendix C	National and International Health Care Expenditures and Health Insurance Coverage	C-1	C-48
Appendix D	Medicare Payment Policies	D-1	D-56

Appendix E	Medicare + Choice	E-1	E-56
Appendix F	Data on Employment, Earnings, and Unemployment	F-1	F-11
Appendix G	Data on Families	G-1	G-41
Appendix H	Data on Poverty	H-1	H-45
Appendix I	Budget Tables	I-1	I-28
Appendix J	Welfare Benefits for Noncitizens	J-1	J-33
Appendix K	Spending for Income-Tested Benefits, Fiscal Years 1968-2000	K-1	K-13
Appendix L	Assessing the Effects of Welfare Reform Initiatives	L-1	L-76
Appendix M	Data on Nonmarital Births to Adults and Teenagers and Federal Strategies to Reduce Nonmarital Pregnancies	M-1	M-14
Index		INDEX-1	INDEX-66